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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

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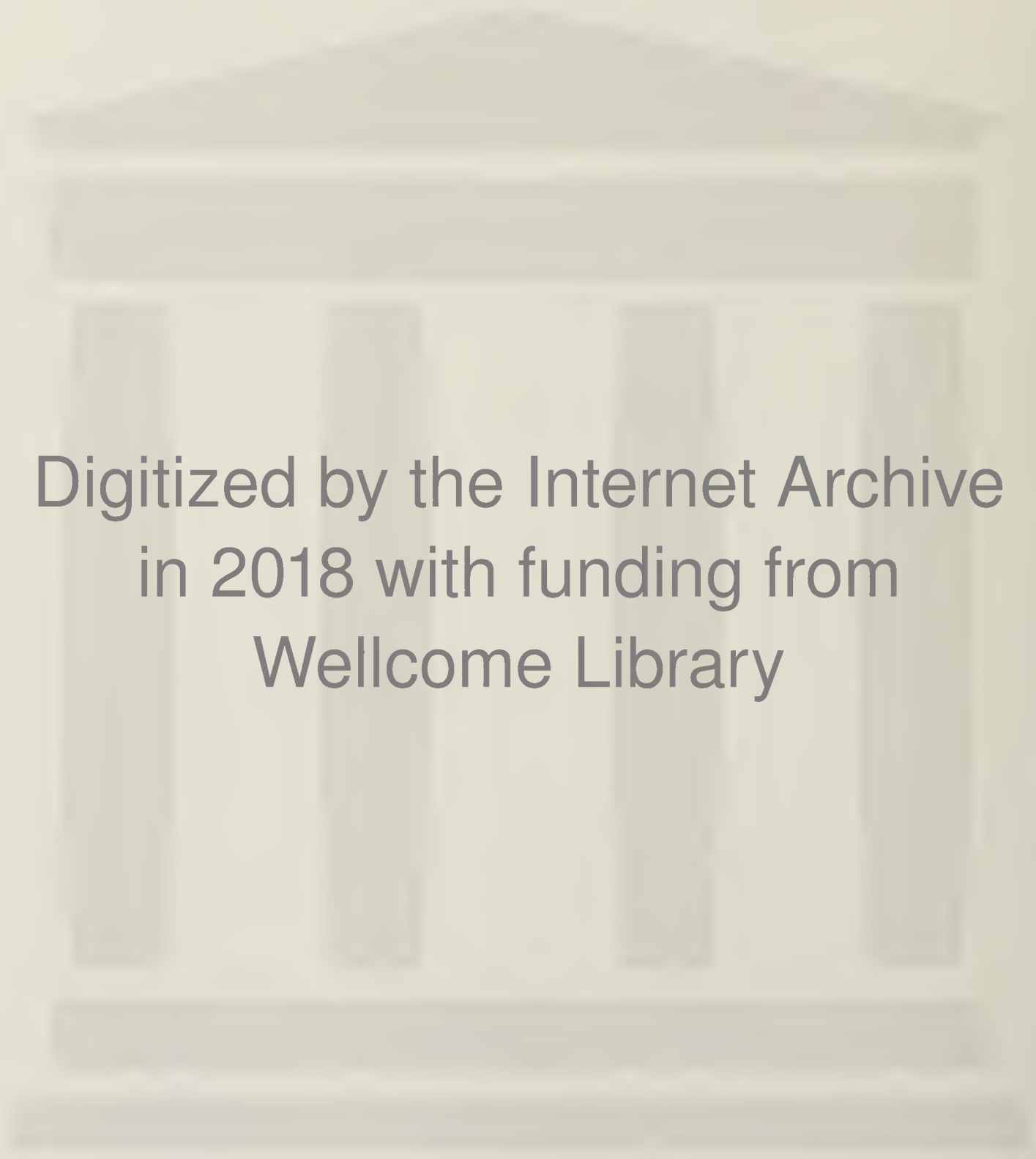
for the



Y E A R E N D I N G

31ST. D E C E M B E R, 1953

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OAKHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1953

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, I deal briefly in this report with matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	2,250
Registrar General's estimate of population	3,990
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1953	1,265
Rateable Value at 31st. December, 1953	£27,130
Nett product of a penny rate	£ 109

VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births - Legitimate	36	30	66
Illegitimate	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
	<u>36</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>69</u>
Still Births - Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>Rate for District</u>		<u>Rate for England and Wales</u>
Birth Rate	20.6		15.5
Death Rate	17.8		11.4
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	29.0		26.8

The high Death Rate is largely accounted for by deaths in elderly people due to diseases of heart and arteries. Approximately 50% of these are in the Age Group 80 and over.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Malignant neoplasm stomach	1	-
Malignant neoplasm lung	1	-
Malignant neoplasm breast	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	5
Coronary disease, angina	2	-
Hypertension with heart disease	3	-
Other heart disease	11	12
Other circulatory disease	5	18
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	6	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
Nephritis & Nephrosis	1	1
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	5	3
	43	46

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health - J. Young, M.B., Ch.B.
D.P.H. Camb.

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the
Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts in which
this District is included.

Sanitary Inspector - H. Tabberer, Sanitary Inspector's
Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute.

The Sanitary Inspector is also Surveyor to the Council.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The following examinations in your area were carried out
during the year at the Public Health Laboratory, Leicester.

Faeces	18
Urine	5
Blood	3
Throat Swab	33
Nose Swab	3
Ear Swab	6
Sputum	3
Pus	2
Water	32
Milk	11

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

	<u>Bacteriological</u>	<u>Chemical</u>
1. (i) <u>WATER</u>		
Number of Samples taken for analysis :-		
(a) from wells	4	-
(b) from piped supply ..	15	-
(c) at sources of public supply 	10	-
Results of samples taken :-		
(a) from wells - unsatisfactory -	3	-
satisfactory -	1	-
(b) from piped supply -		
unsatisfactory -	5	-
satisfactory -	10	-
(c) at sources - unsatisfactory -	6	-
satisfactory -	4	-

Four of the five unsatisfactory piped supply samples had been contaminated in consumers' tanks. The trouble has now been rectified. Only one of the unsatisfactory wells is in fact in use. The unsatisfactory samples at source were from a new boring, and the water was not put into use until satisfactory.

The public supply was severely restricted for most of the second half of the year. During the whole year, 49 million gallons were pumped as compared with 56 millions in 1952.

The Council's water undertaking extends to all but 24 houses in the Urban District, and supplies are given to Braunston, and parts of Ashwell, Barleythorpe and Burley in the Rural District of Oakham.

16 of the 24 houses referred to are situated where there is a main and it is reasonable to expect them to connect.

During the year a 3" main was extended 150 yards on the Uppingham Road and 100 yards new main was laid to serve a new housing estate.

Over 98% of the houses and of the population of the Urban District are supplied by the Council. In some cases the water is not laid into the houses, and in a few cases, one tap is shared by two or more houses.

The acute water shortage caused much anxiety to both the Council and the Officials and was a potential danger to health. Every effort was made to solve the problem and at the time of writing the Council has applied for inclusion in the River Dove Water Board.

(ii) DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

There are 56 houses not connected to the public sewer, but to cesspools or septic tanks and filters, of which there are 23.

(iii) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Total number in the District at the end of 1953 :-

(1)	Privies	...	...	...	...	...	-
(2)	Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	29
(3)	Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	approx. 1,700

Number of pail closets converted
to water carriage system during the year.. 1.

At 21 of these 29 pail closets, either water mains or sewers are not available within the distance laid down in the Act. Some of the remaining 8 are at old houses which are likely to be demolished when the housing situation is eased.

(iv) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

One man is engaged part time on the Refuse Tip. The tip is kept practically free from rats and no insect nuisance occurs. The Council use a Karrier Bantam petrol-driven refuse collecting vehicle, and the work is done in 5 days each week.

The small quantity of nightsoil is tipped at the Sewage Disposal Works.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The particulars given under this heading are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this Report.

Total number of complaints received	19
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered arising out of complaints. ...	18

Nature of Inspections

Number of Inspections
and Revisits.

	Dwelling houses (all purposes)	...	216
	Tents, Vans, etc.,	...	-
-X-	Slaughter houses	...	-
	Food premises	...	45
	Dairies	...	8
	Offensive Trades.	...	-
	Animal keeping	...	2
	Factories etc.,	...	20
	Shops	...	35
	Other premises	...	50
	Water Wastage	...	<u>60</u>
-X-	Slaughtering takes place at the Central Abattoir, Melton Mowbray.		<u>436</u>

Transport of Meat. The improvement noted in my last report has been maintained and your Sanitary Inspector and I are of the opinion that the methods used are reasonably satisfactory.

N O T I C E S.

<u>Preliminary</u>		<u>Housing</u>	<u>Other</u>
Outstanding on 1st. January, 1953	...	-	-
Issued during the year	...	8	10
Complied with during year	...	7	10
Outstanding 31st December, 1953	...	-	-
Statutory action necessary	...	1	-

Statutory

Outstanding 1st. January, 1953	...	-	-
Issued during the year	...	-	1
Complied with during year	...	-	1
Outstanding 31st December, 1953	...	-	-

Most of the work is done by letter, interview or telephone, and few formal notices, either preliminary or statutory, are used. Some nuisances, such as blockages in drains, are abated by Council men, this being considered the quickest method.

CONTROL OF RATS.

The Council in conjunction with the Rural District Councils of Oakham, Barnack and Ketton employ a Pest Control Officer. All complaints are promptly dealt with and there is little evidence of rats in the town.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

One house was found to be infested during the year, and repeated sprayings and fumigating were given.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

The swimming bath is owned by the School Trustees and loaned to the Council during the summer holidays. Five inspections were made during the season.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

At the end of the year there were four distributors and three premises registered. 8 inspections of premises were made.

No action was found necessary under Regulation 20 - Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

Dealers and Supplementary Licences for retailing specially designated milk were issued during the year as follows :-

<u>Tuberculin Tested.</u>	<u>Pasteurised.</u>	<u>Sterilised.</u>
2	2	1

11 samples were taken, 2 were delayed in transit and were void, and 9 were found to be satisfactory.

ICE CREAM.

No ice-cream is now made in Oakham, but 15 premises are registered for its sale. All of these premises have been inspected at least once during the year.

MEAT SHOPS, MEAT STORES, ETC.,

Number of inspections 10

FOOD PREMISES IN THE URBAN DISTRICT IN DECEMBER CONSISTED OF :-

- 6 Cafes.
- 13 Licensed Premises (not including Clubs).
- 11 Retail Grocers etc.,
- 4 Butchers.
- 5 Greengrocers.
- 2 Fishmongers.
- 4 Bakers and pastrycooks.
- 5 Sweets etc.,

Number of inspections 38

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 14 FOR PREPARATION AND SALE OF SAUSAGES, POTTED MEATS AND MEAT PIES 6

PREPARATION AND SALE OF FISH AND CHIPS 1

All have been inspected at least once during the year.

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

The small quantities involved are disposed of by :-

- (a) Burning in the boiler at Council Offices.
- (b) Being taken to tip by Refuse Collectors.

8 lbs. imported pork and ham was surrendered as unfit.

30 lbs. canned fruits were voluntarily surrendered as unfit.

From inspections which I have made with the Sanitary Inspector, I am of opinion that generally speaking the Food Shops in the Town are well conducted with due regard to hygiene.

The tendency in recent years has been towards fewer and better food premises. During the year one butcher's shop closed and another was much improved.

H O U S I N G.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

- | | | | |
|-----|------|--|-----|
| (a) | (i) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 85 |
| | (ii) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 110 |
| (b) | | Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932 ... | 11 |
| (c) | | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 10 |
| (d) | | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 8 |

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	7
--	---

Houses demolished without necessity of Demolition Order	-
--	---

7 houses went out of occupation and are unlikely to be re-used as dwellings.

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-

Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	-
---	---

Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	-
--	---

Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice served under Public Health Act, 1936	-
---	---

The Council resolved in October to acquire a small area in Finkey Street, containing 7 old and dilapidated houses, 5 of which were occupied, for the purpose of clearance and re-development. The property has now been conveyed to the Council.

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

- (a) Number of dwelling houses known to be overcrowded
at the end of 1953 1
- (b) Number of families dwelling therein 2
- (c) Number of persons dwelling therein 9

There are a few cases where houses are uncomfortably full, but are not overcrowded by the Standards laid down in the Housing Act, 1936.

Five cases of overcrowding, involving over 30 persons were abated in 1953. The case referred to in "4 a" above has now been abated.

There were, (at 31st. December, 1953), living at Oakham, 95 applicants for Council Houses. 26 of these are sharing houses with parents or others.

There is also a pressing demand for houses from people outside the Urban District.

During the year 43 Council houses and 4 private houses were completed.

At the end of 1953 the Council owned 281 houses, in addition to 10 temporary bungalows rented from the Ministry.

The following table shows housing development in the last 25 years :-

YEAR	Houses completed other than by Council.	Council Houses.	
1929	3	16	
1930	5	3	
1931	2	-	
1932	4	-	
1933	2	24	
1934	10	6	
1935	15	-	
1936	19	12	
1937	10	6	
1938	13	8	
1939	13	-	
1940-45	-	-	
1946	-	15	
1947	7	5	
1948	2	27	
1949	16	32	
1950	8	13	
1951	13	37	
1952	11	24	
1953	4	43	
TOTAL	157	271	428
AVERAGE FOR 25 YEARS	6	11	17

In addition, there have been conversions and adaptations.

Council Contracts in progress at the end of the year will provide 46 houses.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND
OTHER DISEASES.

(1) Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during 1953.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>	<u>Cases Admitted To Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-
Measles	4	-	-
Whooping Cough	4	-	-
Pneumonia	6	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Meningitis	1	1	-
Dysentery	7	-	-

There was no serious epidemic during the year and the incidence of infectious disease was small.

I am again pleased to note that no case of Diphtheria occurred.

A G E G R O U P

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Under One</u>	<u>1 2</u>	<u>2 3</u>	<u>3 4</u>	<u>4 5</u>	<u>5 10</u>	<u>10 15</u>	<u>15 20</u>	<u>20 35</u>	<u>35 45</u>	<u>45 65</u>	<u>65 & over</u>
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	2	2	-	-

(2)

T U B E R C U L O S I S

Age Group.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

I am very glad to say that no action was found necessary during the year.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

JOHN YOUNG.

Medical Officer of Health.

10, High Street,
Melton Mowbray.

